

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application. The title is objected to for a minor informality. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by JP 2000-058038. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Oweis et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,972,532. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Oweis et al. in view of JP 7-014569. Claims 5-14 are newly added.

**Objection to the Title**

The Examiner objects to the title for not being clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Applicant has amended the title to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that all objections to the title be withdrawn.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)**

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4 as anticipated by JP2000-058038. Applicant has obtained and includes herewith a verified translation of the priority document thereby removing JP2000-058038 as an effective reference. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that all rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) be withdrawn.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a)**

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3 as anticipated by Oweis et al. and claim 4 as obvious over Oweis et al. in view of JP 7-014569. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Independent claim 1 recites, in part:

the current collector of one or other of the positive electrode plate and the negative electrode plate is projected on at least one side of the electrode plate group for forming by itself a flat plane on one side of the electrode plate group; . . .

a current collecting plate joined to the flat plane on one side of the electrode plate group.

These limitations are not taught by the Oweis et al reference. Specifically, the Oweis et al. reference fails to teach a current collector forming a flat plane wherein the flat plane is joined to a current collecting plate. Rather, in Oweis et al., folded portion 12 does not form a flat plane with tab 8, it contacts tab 8 at an angle (see Fig. 3). Thus, the structural arrangement of the presently claimed invention is not taught. Accordingly, as the cited art fails to teach or suggest the present invention, it is respectfully requested that all rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a) be withdrawn.

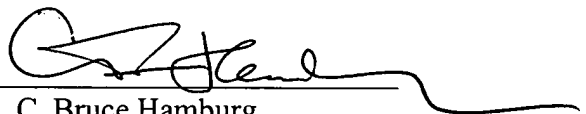
**Newly Added Claims**

It is respectfully submitted that newly added claims 5-14 are allowable over the cited art for claiming either a rechargeable battery having the structural arrangement of a current collector bending at a 90 °angle to form a flat plane and a

collector plate contacting the flat plane or a method of manufacturing a rechargeable battery wherein a current collector bending at a 90 °angle to form a flat plane and a collector plate contacting the flat plane are provided.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

Respectfully submitted,  
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enc.: Verified Translation of Priority Document

**APPENDIX I****AMENDED ABSTRACT WITH AMENDMENTS INDICATED THEREIN  
BY BRACKETS AND UNDERLINING**

In a rechargeable battery in which an electrode plate group [(10)] obtained by superimposing a positive electrode plate [(1)], in which positive electrode material [(1a)] is attached to a positive electrode current collector [(1b)], and a negative electrode plate [(2)], in which negative electrode material [(2a)] is attached to a negative electrode current collector [(2b)], with a separator [(3)] therebetween is accommodated in a battery container [(4)] together with electrolyte, the current collectors [(1b, 2b)] of the electrode plates [(1, 2)] are respectively projected at opposite ends of the electrode plate group [(10)], forming by themselves flat planes [(11, 12)] by being pressed, and current collecting plates [(8, 9)] are joined to these flat planes [(11, 12)].